

ESN3

The Employment Services Network was established as a resource to address the needs of those persons with mental illness wishing to make changes to their current education or employment status, and to better partner with Employers to provide support and education of services.

The ESN shall report outcomes to the CSN (Community Services Network) monthly.

Goal:

To increase rates of employment for people with mental illness:

- ✓ More companies educated about employing people with mental illness
- ✓ Improved strategies for helping people with mental illness find and keep employment. Improve opportunities for continued education.

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting date: **February 25, 2010; 1:30p-3:30p**

Meeting location: **Career Center, Enterprise Drive, Augusta**

1:30p-3:30p

-Discussion:

- WorkReady* Program, offered Feb. 22 in Lewiston, *WorkReady* information sheet
 - two individuals completed CASSAS exam, and passed; on *WorkReady* waitlist
- Develop a “Path Way to Employment, here is what you! can do.” guide, that might be utilized by persons with mental illnesses.
 - Outline/Table of Contents “Draft” provided to MMC-will follow chapters
- “Calling All Crafters”, area Craft Fair scheduled for May 1, 2010, client driven
 - informational meeting March 3, 2010 at Green Street

Handouts:

- Upcoming Career Fairs, Women Unlimited, March 19th, Senator Inn, Augusta and Lewiston Career Center, March 8th
- Women, Work and Community, trainings and workshops
- Women Unlimited, free trainings, MDOT, OJT opportunities and trainings
- Aspirations Program, College Transitions, Capital Area Adult Ed. Consortium
- Job leads, Pangea Food Service, LLC-Marc concerned for particular question on application as it relates to ‘ability to do job’; is this a disability rights concern?
- Unisys, Downtown Augusta, Call Center Reps., *The Computer Merchant*, hiring agent
- Maine Hoices CEO project; Think Beyond the Label, using humor to encourage employers to hire persons with disabilities, ‘*copy incapable office worker, pattern deficient dresser, volume control syndrome.*’ *National Advertising Campaign.*’

ESN3, Meeting Minutes, cont:

Present:

Karena Aveau, Employment Specialist, Project with Industry, Allies, Inc.
Jennifer Raymond, LSW, Program Director, Graham Behavioral Services, Inc.
Brian Charette, ACT Team Employment Specialist, Riverview Psychiatric Center
Jay Carey, ESM, Human Resources, Employment Services
Marc Rodrigue, Disability Program Navigator, Career Center
Lisa Woods, Career Center Consultant
Deborah Thibodeau, Employment Specialist III, Maine Medical Center Initiative,
Kennebec Behavioral Health (host agency)

Absent:

Carol Mitchell-Cusick, Vocational Rehabilitation, Casework Supervisor
David Dubay, CWIC, Benefits Specialist, Maine Medical Center
Debby Maguire, ACT Team Employment Specialist, HealthReach
Gwen Schottin, Peer Representative
Wanita Page, Consent Decree Coordinator, State of Me., Bureau of Adult MH Services
Norman Elvin, Owner, G & E Roofing and the China Dine-ah
Lisa Milne, Peer Representative
Elaine Ecker, Executive Director, Consumer Council of Maine

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Next meeting to be announced

The goal of the ESN is to increase rates of employment for persons with mental illness. Task ahead; inventory the existing resource for Supported/Employment/Education (SEE) in each CSN. The core members of the ESN will invite and expand membership to those SEE providers whose population served represents at least 30% of individuals with mental illness. With this expansion, we can expect to make operational a way to serve the increased numbers of clients who indicate a strong or urgent desire to become employed or attend school.

Respectfully submitted;
Deborah Thibodeau, Employment Specialist III
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(host agency, Kennebec Behavioral Health)
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